

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 04890 150701Z

12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-04 /031 W

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R 150419Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1493

INFO AMMBASSY ABU DHABI 1608

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4890

FROM PAGANELLI EMBASSY DOHA

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EWWT PFOR QA KU IZ

SUBJ: IRAQI MINISTER OF TRANSPORT VISITS QATAR

1. IRAQI MINISTER OF TRANSPORT NUHAD KHAIRY AL KHAFFAF ARRIVED DOHA EVENING OCT 26 FOR ONE DAY VISIT. HE WAS MET AT THE AIRPORT BY GOQ MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS ABDULLAH BIN NASSER AL SUWAIDI, IRAQI AMBASSADOR AND OTHER OFFICIALS. AL SUWAIDI HOSTED A LUNCHEON FOR HIM OCT 27.

2. WE INFORMED BY IRAQI EMBOFF THAT MAIN PURPOSE OF FAKHRI VISIT WAS TO REQUEST USE OF DOHA PORT FACILITIES FOR CARGOES BOUND FOR IRAQ. GOODS WOULD THEN BE TRANSPORTED BY TRUCK TO DESTINATION. ACCORDING SOURCE, PORTS OF BASRA AND UMM QASR ARE SO CONGESTED THAT ALTERNATIVE FORM OF SHIPMENT IS ESSENTIAL, AND QATARIS WERE SYMPATHETIC BUT CANNOT ASSIST DUE PRESENT CONGESTION LEVELS IN DOHA. GOQ REPORTEDLY OFFERED USE OF JETTY AT UM SAID, BUT IRAQIS DECLINED BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE FACILITIES. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, OFFICIAL SAID THAT IDEA OF GULF SHIPPING LINE HAD BEEN DISCUSSED ONLY IN VERY GENERAL TERMS BUT ADDED THAT IRAQ "AS A GULF STATE" WAS INTERESTED IN ANY SUCH COOPERATIVE
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VENTURE IDEA.

3. GOQ ADVISOR WHO TOOK PART IN DISCUSSIONS CONFIRMED THAT MAJOR PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS REQUEST FOR PORT FACILITIES AND GAVE ESSENTIALLY SAME VERSION OF GOQ REPLY. HE ADDED THAT IRAQIS RAISED ISSUE OF GULF SHIPPING COMPANY, AND EMPHASIZED THEIR INTEREST IN PLAYING A ROLE IN ANY REGIONAL UNDERTAKING. GOQ SAID IT WOULD GIVE CONSIDERATION TO IRAQI VIEW. NOTING THAT FAKHRI HAD COME TO DOHA FROM KUWAIT WHERE HE HELD SIMILAR TALKS WITH GOK, OFFICIAL COMMENTED IRAQ MIGHT BE ABLE TO PRESSURE KUWAIT INTO PORT CONCESSIONS AND COOPERATION ON COMMERCIAL VENTURES, BUT GOQ WAS NOT VULNERABLE TO SUCH PRESSURE.
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